

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Functions and Plans of the Zenica Metallurgical Combine

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Zenica is the largest heavy industry combine in Yugoslavia. Its buildings cover an area of 20,000 square meters.
2. Construction was begun in 1945 and it is scheduled for final completion in 1949. During the early period of their construction, the works were frequently visited by Czech and Russian commissions. Currently, Zenica is supervised by the Minister of Heavy Industry in the Republic of Serbia, Vojko Lekovic.
3. There are 16,750 workers presently employed at the factory. They work in three shifts, 0600-1400, 1400-2200 and 2200-0600 hours. After completing his shift, each worker is drafted into "voluntary" work on building, road construction and wood cutting. The "voluntary" work carried on inside the combine is devoted to the unloading of raw material. This is to speed the turnover of railroad cars because of shortages.
4. During 1948, 140,000 tons of iron ore were refined and processed. The target set was 200,000 tons. The reason for the deficit was ascribed to a shortage of workers, transportation and coal. The target for 1949 is 230,000 tons.
5. The construction of four new buildings, containing apartments for 280 workers, is projected. In addition, it is planned to establish electric works on the Bosna river to provide power for the factory. Production throughout the combine is to be raised 15 percent in 1949. Eight hundred skilled workers are to be trained, and to this end a one hour course has to be attended daily by all new workers. This course trains workers to perform skilled and semi-skilled functions; particular attention is given to training for work in the blast furnaces because of the shortage of men skilled in this type of work.
6. The personnel department of the works is responsible for the recruitment of workers for the factory. It is planned to have 20,000 workers employed by the end of 1949. On account of the acute shortage of accommodation for the workers, wooden barracks are under construction outside the factory. Because of the unsatisfactory working conditions, accommodation and food, a large proportion of the workers have sought other employment. Many have gone to work on the Belgrade-Zagreb road.

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7. Ore comes from the mines at Lubija (pure iron content 50 percent) and from Vares (pure iron content 30 to 60 percent). Sixteen railroad lines inside the factory are used to load and unload raw materials and products.
8. The foundry processes iron and steel, and constructs machine castings and metal rails. During 1948, twelve kilometers of rails and six tons of various types of chains were sent to Albania. Various tank parts were also produced, including armor plates which were sent to the Technical-Military institutes at Kragujevac and Titovo Uzice.
9. Personnel employed:
 - a. The following German engineers are employed in the combine as experts on machine-engineering and smelting processes:

Alex Hanel
Franz Kopritsch
Viktor Somer
 - b. The leading Yugoslav engineers in the combine are:

Bozidar Kovacevic
Simo Pocekovic
Simo Preradovic
Danilo Dulic
Ivan Novak
Kikola Dobricic
 - c. Among the newly arrived engineers are:

Bora Stanic
Ivica Bozek
Mustafa Adambegovic
Kikola Cjejic
Darinka Vuckovic
 - d. Students from the Technical faculties of Belgrade, Zagreb, Ljubljana and Skolpje are brought to Zenica to gain practical experience in their training.

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